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22 July 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer for
Strategic Programs

FROM : MG Edward B. Atkeson, USA
National Intelligence Officer for
General Purpose Forces

SUBJECT : The NIO/GPF Production Program []

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1. Over the past several months I have discussed the GPF production program -- past and future -- periodically with [] of SOVA's Theater Forces Division. We have particularly focused on what I sense is rather universally felt (at least within SOVA and the non-military agencies) dissatisfaction with the "blockbuster" approach to military NIEs [] recently sent me his specific proposals for altering the way we do business (see the memo at Tab A).

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2. I am somewhat attracted to [] proposal. It responds to the defense community's demands for data-intensive force trends analysis and future force projections, but it also would enable us to focus more heavily on key policy issues in a forum other than the traditional labor-intensive encyclopedic NIE format. I recognize, however, that [] proposal goes beyond just general purpose theater forces: at a minimum it suggests some slopping over the line into the area of INF. Thus it may well have implications for the way you do business.

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3. I would appreciate your thoughts on this approach to military estimates and its implications. I have attached at Tab B some of the historical exchanges on this subject, should you wish to delve further into the background.



Edward B. Atkeson

Attachments:

Tab A
Tab B

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